

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, UNEP

SUBJECT: UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL: PROJECT APPROVAL

REQUEST PERMREP INFORM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AS FOLLOWS IN
RESPONSE TO HIS LETTER OF AUGUST 30, 1977, REQUESTING
GOVERNMENT VIEWS ON UNEP GC DECISION 82(V) ON THE ADVISABIL-
ITY AND FEASIBILITY OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL APPROVING
PROJECTS.

"THE USG CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT THE GENERAL PROCEDURES
GOVERNING THE OPERATIONS OF THE FUND OF UNEP, DECISION 2(1),
ADOPTED BY THE FIRST SESSION OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON
22 JUNE 1973, PROPERLY DEFINE THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNING
COUNCIL IN RELATION TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS TO BE SUPPORTED BY
THE ENVIRONMENT FUND. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT IS ADVIS-
ABLE OR FEASIBLE FOR THE GOVERNING COUNCIL TO CONSIDER AND
TAKE ACTION ON ALL PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR SUPPORT BY THE
FUND. FOR THE COUNCIL TO ATTEMPT TO DO SO WOULD INVOLVE IT
IN A LEVEL OF DETAIL WHICH COULD ONLY BE DISCHARGED AT THE
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EXPENSE OF THE COUNCIL'S PRIMARY OBLIGATIONS AS ESTABLISHED
IN SECTION 1.2 OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2997(XXVII).
FURTHERMORE, TO DISCHARGE SUCH A TASK AT ALL ADEQUATELY,
WOULD REQUIRE GREATLY EXTENDED SESSIONS OF THE GOVERNING
COUNCIL WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE COUNCIL'S ADMINISTRATIVE
COSTS AT THE EXPENSE OF SUBSTANTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTI-

VITIES.

"WE DO SEE THE NEED FOR CONTINUING ATTENTION TO DEVELOPMENT OF IMPROVED DOCUMENTATION FOR KEEPING MEMBER STATES FULLY INFORMED OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND HAVE BEEN PLEASED WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S RESPONSE TO MEMBER STATES' REQUESTS FOR SUCH IMPROVEMENTS. IN ADDITION, CLOSE ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE DESIRABILITY OF PROVIDING THE COUNCIL AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER MAJOR PROJECTS PRIOR TO FUND COMMITMENT. IN THIS RESPECT, THE COUNCIL ITSELF, IN REVIEWING THE ANNUAL PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION AT ITS SESSIONS, SHOULD GIVE PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO PROJECT PROPOSALS WHICH IT WISHES SUBMITTED TO IT FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL AS PROVIDED IN ARTICLE VI PARA 4 OF THE GENERAL PROCEDURES.

"WHILE THE UNITED STATES THUS DOES NOT SEE THE NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL REVISION OF THE GENERAL PROCEDURES AT THIS STAGE, THERE MAY BE MERIT IN A REVIEW OF OPERATIONS UNDER THESE PROCEDURES IN THE LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE DEVELOPED IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS OF THE PROGRAM. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD SUPPORT A PROPOSAL THAT THE COUNCIL ESTABLISH AN AD HOC COMMITTEE AT ITS SIXTH SESSION TO UNDERTAKE A REVIEW OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE PROGRAM UNDER THE GENERAL PROCEDURES SO FAR WITH A VIEW TO REPORTING THE RESULTS OF ITS REVIEW AT THE SEVENTH SESSION. ONE OBJECTIVE OF SUCH A REVIEW

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WOULD BE TO IDENTIFY PROJECTS WHICH, BECAUSE OF THEIR PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE OR THE SIZE OF THE UNEP FINANCIAL COMMITMENT WOULD HAVE WARRANTED MORE DETAILED CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL PRIOR TO APPROVAL. THIS REVIEW WOULD THUS NOT ONLY ASSIST THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IN HIS FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE PROGRAM, BUT WOULD BE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE COUNCIL IN IDENTIFYING PROJECTS ON WHICH IT MIGHT WISH TO INVOKE THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH 4 OF ARTICLE VI OF THE PROCEDURES."

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